

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07366 300350Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8375
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AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7366

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PARM, PK
SUBJECT: CMLA GENERAL ZIA HITS THE GROUND RUNNING IN BALUCHISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 7352

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL ZIA BEGAN A SIX-DAY VISIT
TO THE TROUBLESOME PROVINCE OF BALUCHISTAN JULY 27. HIS FIRST FEW HOU
RS

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 07366 300350Z

ON THE GROUND INCLUDED A PRESS CONFERENCE AND TWO ADDRESSES TO MILITA
RY
GROUPS.

2. GENERAL ZIA, ON ARRIVAL AT QUETTA, TOLD THE PRESS IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS THAT PAKISTAN IS STILL COMMITTED TO OBTAINING THE NUCLEAR
REPROCESSING PLANT. REFERRING TO A STATEMENT MADE BY PNA LEADER MUFTI

MAHMOOD AFTER THE MUFTI/CMLA MEETING JULY 25 (REFTEL), GENERAL ZIA TOLD THE REPORTERS QUOTE WE DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE SPECIAL ADVISE (FROM MUFTI) ON THE SUBJECT WE HAD COMMUNICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE

.
WE HOPE THEY (GOF) WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION... THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA IS NOT IN LINE WITH WHAT PAKISTAN'S THINKING IS. WE HAVE DIFFICULTIES BUT WE ARE TACKLING THEM. UNQUOTE.

3. IN DISCUSSING LOCAL BALUCHI CONCERNS WITH THE PRESS, GENERAL ZIA BLAMED THE REGION'S PROBLEMS ON MIS-MANAGEMENT BY THE BHUTTO REGIME. HE DEFENDED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS BEING QUOTE SELFLESS AND FACELESS UNQUOTE AS WELL AS NEUTRAL IN THE POLITICAL SQUABBLES OF THE PROVINCE

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE NAM BELGRADE CONFERENCE AND WHETHER PAK ATTENDANCE MEANS THE MLA IS RE-THINKING DEFENSE PACTS, GENERAL ZIA ANSWERED THAT GOP PRESENCE AT BELGRADE IS AS GUEST AND QUOTE SOME OF OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE INDICATIVE OF THIS UNQUOTE.

5. LATER IN FIRST DAY OF BALUCHISTAN VISIT, CMLA ADDRESSED PAKISTANI ARMY TROOPS IN A QUETTA STADIUM, THEN SPOKE AT THE COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE IN THE EVENING. IN THE FORMER ADDRESS THE CMLA CALLED THE PAK ARMY EXCELLENT AND WELL-DISCIPLINED, AND CALLED FOR ALL TO REMAIN PREPARED TO DEFEND THE HOMELAND. GENERAL ZIA'S PEP TALK INCLUDED A MAJOR RELIGIOUS CONTENT WITH NUMEROUS CALLS FOR MUSLIM UNITY AND FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 07366 300350Z

THE PAK ARMY TO CONSIDER ITSELF QUOTE THE ARMY OF ISLAM UNQUOTE.
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6. COMMENT: GENERAL ZIA'S REPORTED REMARKS TO THE PRESS AT QUETTA ARE THE MOST SPECIFIC OFFICIAL PUBLIC REFERENCE WE HAVE SEEN TO DATE CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT BEING IN REAL JEOPARDY. THE STATEMENT MAY BE THE FIRST SALVO IN GOING PUBLIC WITH THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION, THUS MAKING A POSSIBLE FINAL TURN-DOWN BY THE FRENCH LESS BITTER A PILL. HIS MENTION OF U.S. OPPOSITION TO THE PLANT ALSO HELPS DIVERT THE WRATH. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT MORE FULLY ON GENERAL ZIA'S FENCE-MENDING TRIP TO BALUCHISTAN AS THE VISIT PROGRESSES. HUMMEL

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